FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MAY 1984

Libya

Members of the revolutionary committees stormed a building "infiltrated" by a "group of terrorists" and killed all members of the group when they refused to surrender, JANA announced. Lists of names of "terrorists" with whom they were collaborating were discovered in their possession. The agency also charged that "terrorist cells" trained in Sudan and Britain have been arrested. Commenting on the incidents, JANA said that Libya reserves the right to "punish" those who trained and supplied the "terrorists."

After the attack Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was reported by JANA to have met with participants in an ideological session for members of the military revolutionary committees. Damascus radio said the Libyan leader also spoke to Syrian President al-Asad on the telephone after the attack. A Libyan official in Paris blamed the attack on "a few Libyans and Palestinians" loyal to Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, AFP reported. According to Vienna television, Al-Qadhdhafi accused Britain of being "jointly responsible."

Meanwhile, Tunisian officials declined to comment on Libyan accusations that an anti-Libya group had entered Libya from Tunisia, KUNA disclosed. A TAP report cited by Tunis radio announced that three Tunisian guards were "detained" by Libyan authorities at the Tunisian-Libyan border and added that Tunisian authorities are seeking their return.

Lebanon

Political Situation — The Cabinet will meet on 10 May if agreement can be reached on a venue for the session, Beirut radio reported. Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt had earlier stated in remarks broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that the meeting should be held in a "neutral" place rather than in B'abda, where there are "no security guarantees." On the other hand, former President Camille Sham'un stressed that the meeting must be held in B'abda, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Interior Minister 'Abdallah ar-Rasi will not attend because of former President Sulayman Franjiyah's opposition to his appointment, the radio also disclosed. At his weekly news conference, reported by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, Franjiyah confirmed that he "cannot agree on the composition of this government," although he indicated willingness to compromise on his demands for the exclusion of "Israeli agents" from the government and for the right to choose half the Christian ministers.

Security/Military Situation — Sniper fire continued in Beirut and gunmen in the western sector kidnapped an American clergyman, Voice of Lebanon reported. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio spoke of "tension" in the Al-Biqa' valley following recent "limited clashes" between Israeli and Syrian forces while Beirut radio reported that Israeli trucks were recently seen towing Hawk antiaircraft missile batteries toward Al-Baruk Mountain, which overlooks the valley. In an earlier report on the 7 May clash between Syrian forces and Israeli gunboats near Al-Batrun, Beirut radio cited reports that the Syrians had foiled an Israeli landing attempt. Damascus radio carried another Syrian warning about Israeli intentions, asserting that Israel is strengthening its military presence in Al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon in preparation for a preemptive strike at Syrian forces prior to the Israeli election.

Israel

Commenting on reports that Iranian authorities have used gas to kill Jews and other minorities in Iran, Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman said Israel can stop such practices, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported. Ne'eman's spokesman confirmed that these remarks intimated a threat to bomb Iran, the paper added.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in a speech in the DPRK reported by KCNA, reaffirmed his call for the convocation of a UN-sponsored conference to solve the Palestinian problem. 'Arafat also held talks with Chinese Communist Party Central Committee General Secretary Hu Yaobang during his stay in North Korea, KCNA noted.

Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio disclosed that the forthcoming visit to Moscow by a Fatah delegation will begin on 26 May.

Tunisia

A presidential statement broadcast by Tunis radio announced President Habib Bourguiba's decision to dismiss National Security Department chief Ahmed Bennour from his government and political positions.

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Foreign Ministry Condemns Nakasone Remarks

LD082027 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 84

[Statement issued 8 May by Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

[Text] Details of the recent visit by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to Pakistan, and his interventionist and provocative remarks against our people and the revolution clearly show that visits by imperialist, hegemonist, and reactionary figures to Pakistan not only pursue a single objective, but from the view point of formality also contain a similar program.

During his stay in Pakistan, Nakasone, like others, tried on the one hand to use every opportunity for making interventionist and provocative remarks against revolutionary Afghanistan, and on the other hand, by praising Pakistan's enmity to peace and progressive in the region, to encourage the militarist leaders of that country to continue Pakistan's role as a major springboard of aggression against the DRA.

He, like others, went to the notorious camp in Naser Bagh, Peshawar, where Afghan counterrevolutionaries receive military training. Under the deceptive guise of humanitarian assistance, he promised increased assistance equivalent to $15 million to the counterrevolutionary bands.

However, deceptive words such as humanitarian assistance no longer deceive anyone; as the world public now knows full well, under this colorful phrase during the years after the victory of the April Revolution, the criminal counterrevolutionary bands in Pakistan were being financed, armed and equipped, and hundreds of the deceived elements were being (?forced) to kill their compatriots mercilessly.

It has been known for a long time that the Government of Japan not only follows Washington's guidance but also does not ignore Beijing's advice which, after U.S. imperialism, plays a major role in the undeclared war against the DRA.

This malicious advice has only one objective, and this is to drag Japan into the imperialistic, hegemonist, reactionary alliance against revolutionary Afghanistan, and, as a result, to utilize Japanese resources to increase assistance to Afghan counterrevolutionary bands against the people of our country.

The true facts are these: Following R. Reagan's visit to Beijing, the work of establishing an aggressive and expansionist orbit — Washington, Beijing, Tokyo — is completing its final touch; and the reviving Japanese militarism has undertaken to play an important role in implementing the political and military objectives of this alliance in the Asian Continent and the Pacific region. Therefore, it is not accidental that Nakasoni arrived in Islamabad while R. Reagan was still in China; this was done in order to give an assurance about Japan's further participation in the undeclared war against the DRA. However, the Government of Japan must realize that an increase in the share of Japanese militarism in the undeclared war against a full member of the United Nations, and military assistance to the counterrevolutionary elements against a government with whom Japan has diplomatic relations, under whatever name, is not only completely contrary to the UN Charter and all accepted norms and principles of international relations, but is totally repugnant to the interests of the people of Japan and the cause of peace and security.

In following such a line the Government of Japan has ignored the interests of the general public and commercial circles of that country in having close contacts in various fields, in the particular progress of trade and economic cooperation with the DRA, and has sacrificed the national interests of the country and the people of Japan for the aggressive and adventurist wishes of U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism. [words indistinct]

Japan's further assistance to the counterrevolutionaries and playing an increased role in the intensification and destabilization of the situation in southwest Asia, as an attempt to cooperate with the implementation of the U.S. international designs, can never block the path of the heroic people of revolutionary Afghanistan for the construction of a new society. The useless and vain efforts of imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, hegemonism, and reaction during the past 6 years against the revolution in our country, must have proved to all that the national and democratic April Revolution is invincible. And the free-born people of our country, who are seeking prosperity for themselves and for the future generations of their society in the revolution and evolution of its gains, have the ability, with the assistance and cooperation of their friends, to give a crushing rebuff to every conspiracy, interference and aggression against their revolutionary homeland.

In vigorously condemning the remarks and promises of the Japanese prime minister on increased assistance to Afghan counterrevolutionaries as open interference in the internal affairs of free, independent, nonaligned, and revolutionary Afghanistan, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out that our people, under the leadership of the PDPA, who are engaged in noble work and struggle for the creation of a new life in their country, will continue their relentless struggle with anger and hatred against the supporters of imperialist, hegemonist, reactionary, and militarist homeless counterrevolutionaries, to the complete elimination of the last remnant of these treacherous elements to the homeland and revolution.

More on Sadeqi Meeting With Troops in Panjsher

LD071644 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Greetings and best wishes from Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were conveyed today by Brigadier Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and Army chief political affairs chief, to the troops and officers of the Armed Forces units and companies in Panjsher.

BAKHTAR agency, quoting a correspondent of *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR*, reports that the Army political affairs chief visited today the units and companies of the 10th Regiment of the Armed Forces' 20th Division, stationed in the Bazarak and Astaneh areas, and the 404th Commando Unit in the (Anaba) area of Panjsher.

Speaking to the officers and troops, the Army political affairs chief stressed their heroic tasks in purging the country of the foul existence of the counterrevolutionary elements. He appreciated the heroic activities of the combatants of the Armed Forces in the recent mopping-up operations in Panjsher valley.

At the end of this meeting the heroic officers and men of the Armed Forces pledged to continue their struggle to the last breath to safeguard the gains of the April Revolution, to strengthen and expand the bases of the revolution among the people, and to eliminate completely the counterrevolutionary elements.

Bulgarian Fatherland Front Delegation Visits

LD072339 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] Bareq Shafi'i, member of the PDPA Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the DRA National Fatherland Front [NFF], this afternoon met with a high-ranking delegation from the Bulgarian Fatherland Front which has arrived in Kabul headed by Krustyu Trichkov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front.

During this meeting, attended by the secretary and head for international relations of the DRA NFF Central Council and the Bulgarian ambassador to Kabul, talks were held on further strengthening relations between the two fatherland fronts.

Krustyu Trichkov and his delegation are in Kabul at the invitation of the Central Council of the DRA NFF for a friendly visit and for talks on expanding relations and cooperation between the two fronts.

14 Rebels Wounded, Weapons Seized in Sheberghan

LD071703 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] A group of rebels, servants of reaction and imperialism who wanted to disrupt security and peace in Zargar Khana village of Sheberghan, was recently crushed by that village's revolution defense groups. Fourteen of them were wounded.

A spokesman for Jowzjan Province's security forces said that a quantity of weapons and ammunition and document proving their links with counterrevolutionary groups abroad were seized from these criminals.

Government Casualties in Baghlan, Kabul Depicted

BK090910 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, at least 31 Soviet-Karmal soldiers are reported to have been killed or wounded in encounters with Afghan mujahidin in Baghlan and Kabul Province. Meanwhile, 2 mujahidin and 20 civilians were also martyred in bombing operations by Soviet planes.

Other Operations Against Regime

GF080819 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1716 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Our crusading brothers in a lightning coordinated operation against the (?main garrison of) Farah Province encircled the base and after a bloody clash annihilated or wounded at least 35 of the deceived forces of Karmal's regime and their Soviet masters.

The operations were carried out on the anniversary of the disgraceful April coup under circumstances when the coupists and their masters were engaged in debauchery. Two of the officers of the mercenary regime of Karmal, including the Sazanduy commander of Farah Province, surrendered to our crusading brothers. Two vehicles and 15 Kalashnikovs and a large quantity of (?ammunition) were taken by our Muslim brothers. Following the successful operations, the infidel enemy bombed the villages around the area and martyred at least three defenseless civilians in Mulla Aman village area.

Eight Muslim Soviet soldiers from the Muslim republics, who had come to realize the inauspicious goals of the Kremlin leaders, surrendered to our Muslim revolutionary brothers on the anniversary of the disgraceful April Revolution. The eight individuals joined our revolutionary ranks in one of the command regions of the Kabul Province.

A Muslim general of the Soviet occupation forces joined our crusading brothers recently. This Muslim Soviet general, Mohammad Hasanov, is a citizen of Soviet Turkistan, and upon joining the ranks of our crusading brothers he announced that he is ready to fight against the aggressions of the foreigners alongside our Muslim revolutionaries.

In an attack against a base of the Soviet occupation forces and the deceived personnel of Karmal's regime in Qandahar, our brothers managed to annihilate 19 of the joint forces. The infidel enemy retaliated by bombing the region and murdering and wounding a number of the innocent people of some villages. Houses and crops were also damaged.

Briefs

Generators Purchased From USSR — A contract to purchase five diesel generators was signed in Kabul today between the Ministry of Electrical Energy and the trade consulate of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The contract was signed by the planning head of the Electrical Energy Ministry and the representative of the Soviet Embassy's trade consulate. Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of electrical energy, was also present. According to this contract, five diesel generators, with a total cost of 6,405,000 clearing dollars, will be bought by a loan from D'Afghanistan Bank. The generators will be delivered to Afghan by the end of 1985, three in 1984 and two in 1985. [Excerpt] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 84 LD]

Venkataraman Details Pakistani Military Deployments

BK081635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, assured the Rajya Sabha today that the government has taken all steps to meet any possible threat from Pakistan. Replying to a calling-attention motion, the defense minister said that Pakistan has deployed three-fourths of its Army along the Indian border, and we cannot ignore the fact. The motion was moved by Mr Jaswant Singh, Bharatiya Janata Party, and others.

Reacting to some members' views that a war psychosis has been artificially created, Mr Venkataraman gave details of Pakistani deployment. He said Pakistan has positioned four infantry divisions in Jammu and Kashmir, three independent armored brigades and six infantry divisions in Punjab, one armored brigade and one infantry division in the Gujarat sector, and one armored brigade and two infantry divisions in Rajasthan sector. He said that Pakistan's massive arms acquisition is a cause of concern for India.

The defense minister pointed out that India has to be in readiness to meet the situation, and said that India's defense policy now lays stress on strengthening of armored corps rather than infantry. More emphasis is being laid on electronic countermeasures.

On the question of Pakistan acquiring nuclear capability, Mr Venkataraman pointed out that while the government does not have any definite information, Pakistan's atomic energy chief is reported to have claimed his country achieving manufacturing nuclear arms capability. The government is to proceed on the assumption that Pakistan has the capability. While he asserted that India is not lagging behind Pakistan in nuclear technology, Mr Venkataraman said that the country is committed to use it only for peaceful purposes.

Earlier, in a statement, Mr Venkataraman said despite all these developments, India is pursuing its policy of peace with Pakistan.

Moving the motion, Mr Jaswant Singh said the real danger is what he called the proxy war in the region. He said the super-power conflict should not involve India and Pakistan. Taking part in the discussion, members generally expressed concern over the situation. Some members pleaded for a change in the country's nuclear policy.

BSF Official on Legality of Bangladesh Border Fence

BK081625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The director general of the Border Security Force [BSF], Mr Birbal Nath, has clarified to his Bangladesh counterpart that erection of barbed wire fencing on the border does not violate the agreement between the two countries.

The BSF director general and the chief of the Bangladesh Rifles, Major General Golam Muktadir, met at Haridaspur checkpost in 24 Paraganas District in West Bengal yesterday. The BSF chief made it clear that fencing on the border is purely a preventive measure against infiltration and smuggling and is not part of any defense installation.

Talks With Bangladesh Begin on Use of Tista Water

BK081309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The 2-day secretary-level conference between India and Bangladesh began in New Delhi this morning. The conference is discussing the modalities for study of the availability of the Tista water and sharing of the water on ad hoc basis.

'Terrorist' Gang Arrested in Punjab

BK081609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, a gang of seven terrorists has been arrested after an exchange of fire early this morning near village Pinjal in Ludhiana District. Six firearms, including a Sten gun, a rifle, and a large quantity of ammunition have been recovered from them.

The inspector general of police, Mr P.S. Bhinder, told newsmen in Chandigarh that the terrorists, who were traveling in a truck, opened fire at the police when challenged at the checkpost. After an intense exchange of fire they surrendered.

Mr Bhinder said the initial interrogation of the culprits revealed that they were responsible for a large number of terrorist activities in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi. These include killing of four bus passengers near (Naushera Panwan) in Amritsar District during November last, killing of a police constable on duty, and docoities [burglaries] and murder of a large number of other innocent people. They have also confessed of having been living in the Golden Temple complex and returning there after committing crimes.

Today some unidentified youths attempted to set fire to four post offices in Ropar District. As official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the blaze was extinguished immediately. A door was slightly damaged. Some more persons have been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, the five high Sikh priests held a detailed discussion with Sant Harchand Longowal in Amritsar this afternoon. The high-level closed-door deliberations were also attended by the acting Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee President Mr Atma Singh.

Later, in an exclusive interview, Sant Harchand Longowal told our Amritsar correspondent (G.S. Tiwana) that the discussions were about the Punjab tangle, but he refused to elaborate. He said another round of talk is expected soon. The five Sikh high priests had already met Bhindranwale yesterday.

CPI-M Worker Wounded

BK090909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, the leader of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] group in the State Assembly, Mr Chand Singh Chopra, escaped unhurt when two unidentified miscreats fired at him this morning at Barnala in Sangrur District.

A CPI-M worker and sarpanch [village head] in a nearby village, Mr Amarjit Singh, who was accompanying Mr Chopra, was seriously injured in the attack. He has been operated upon in the local hospital.

Burmese Foreign Minister Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK071654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The foreign affairs minister of Burma, Mr Chit Hlaing, was given a warm welcome when he arrived in New Delhi this evening on a 4-day official visit. He was received at the airport, among others, by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. Talking to newsmen, Mr Hlaing said that it is a goodwill visit, and he will discuss possibilities of enhancing the existing friendly relations between India and Burma. This is the first visit by a Burmese foreign minister in several years.

Meeting With Rao, Gandhi

BK081641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] India has told Burma that it would welcome Rangoon's association with the South Asian Regional Cooperation countries. At the talks between the visiting Burmese foreign minister, U Chit Hlaing, and the Indian delegation led by the minister for external affairs, Mr Narasimha Rao, the Foreign Secretary Mr Rasgotra said if Burma finds it advantageous to join the arrangement, it can just walk in.

U Hlaing called on the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, today and conveyed to her greetings from the Burmese leaders. Mrs Gandhi reciprocated the sentiments and asked the foreign minister to convey her greetings to the Burmese leaders.

In the review of the situation in the region, Mr Rao noted that though Burma is not a nonaligned country, there is much in common between its and India's foreign policy perspectives. He expressed happiness at developing contacts between the two countries.

The Burmese foreign minister briefed Mr Rao about his country's attitude on various issues and its development program. Mr Rao told the Burmese minister that there are some valuable manuscripts relating to the activities in 1826 of the Burmese hero (Mahabandula) in an Indian museum and India proposes to present these to the Burmese Government.

Gandhi: Space Cooperation Talks With USSR Continue

BK090955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Detailed discussions are going on at the scientists level on future cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in space and many other areas. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, said this in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today. She described the Indo-Soviet joint space flight as an important step in friendly cooperation between the two countries.

Mrs Gandhi said there is no specific proposal at present for further space flights by Indians independently or in joint ventures.

Cacher Declared Gastroenteritis Epidemic Area

BK090905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] In Assam, the entire Cacher District has been declared an epidemic area following the outbreak of gastroenteritis in virulent form. Disclosing this the district magistrate, Mr K. Bora, said that sale of aerated water and sweets in the market has been banned. He said the worst affected regions are Katigora, Hailakandi, and Silchar. Medicines have been rushed to the vulnerable areas and teams of innoculators sent to the affected areas.

Briefs

India-EEC Agreement — The Indo-EEC Joint Commission has adopted a new program in science and technology. It is being implemented this year. The program includes cooperation in tropical health, particularly in [words indistinct] leprosy and environmental protection. This was announced in New Delhi last evening at the end of the 3-day session of the commission. The other fields covered are energy and tropical agriculture. [Excerpt] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 84 BK]

Record Oil Production — The Bombay high offshore project registered a record production of 17.39 million tons of oil and 196,000 tons of LPG in 1983-84. The production is expected to further rise to 20 million tons this year. The project in charge [as heard], Mr K.R. Malhotra, told a group of visiting newsmen that the production of oil in the area has recorded a fourfold increase in the last 5 years. [Excerpt] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 84 BK]

Reportage on Visit by Romanian President Ceausescu

Ceausescu, Delegation Arrive

BK071556 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] The Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, was accorded a very warm and enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this evening on a 4-day visit to Pakistan. The Romanian president and his wife, Madam Elena Ceausescu, were welcomed at the airport by President and Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The two leaders embraced each other and shook hands warmly.

The president is hosting a banquet in honor of the Romanian president at the Presidency in Islamabad tonight. The two leaders will hold formal talks tomorrow on ways to further strenthen bilateral relations and on regional and international issues. A Radio Pakistan representative says Pakistan and Romania share identical views on a number of international issues which provide a strong basis for bilateral relations in various fields.

Ceausescu, Zia Address Banquet

BK081234 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The heads of state of Romania and Pakistan have underscored the need for good relations among states based on internationally recognized principles of noninterference, sovereign equality, and respect for territorial integrity. They were speaking at a banquet hosted by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in honor of President Ceausescu of Romania in Islamabad last night.

In his speech, the Romanian leader said that during their talks in Pakistan, they will discuss ways and means to further strengthen relations at the bilateral and regional levels, which will not only benefit the peoples of the two countries but will also strengthen global peace and understanding. The Romanian president made specific mention of the petrochemicals industry, light industries, railways, and other areas in the economic and technical fields in which the two countries can have useful cooperation.

Mr Ceausescu underscored the need for social equality among all states, and said that relations among states should be based on the principle of respect for national independence and brotherhood. He said the United Nations and other organizations should play a more active role in promoting international understanding and peace among states. He called for reducing nuclear arms and for an end to the attitude of using force or the threat to use force in international affairs, and stressed the need for a negotiated peaceful settlement of all problems. The Romanian president supported the call for establishing nuclear-free zones in Europe and other parts of the world. He also called for noninterference in the internal affairs of other nations and for closer cooperation among developing countries.

About the Iran-Iraq war, tne Romanian president expressed the hope that the two countries will settle their conflict through negotiations. He called for withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands and for restoration of all inalienable rights of the Palestinians, including the right to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Earlier, in his speech President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the cordial relations between Pakistan and Romania are vivid proof that dissimilarity of ideologies and social systems cannot be an impediment in bilateral relations if both states sincerely desire mutual cooperation. He said the real basis of close Pakistani-Romanian relations is that they abide by the universally recognized principles of noninterference and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all independent nations. The president, however, regretted that these principles are being openly trampled upon, endangering regional and global peace. In this context, he referred to Afghanistan and Kampuchea, which, despite the passage of several years, remain under foreign military occupation. He said the foreign military intervention in Afghanistan has deeply and adversely affected Pakistan's security, besides forcing over 3 million Afghan nationals to seek shelter in Pakistan. He said it is incumbent upon the international community to make sincere efforts for the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland with honor and dignity. The president said Pakistan has extended its fullest cooperation to the UN personal representative for seeking a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. He expressed hope that the UN representative will succeed in achieving a settlement of this problem.

The president said the deteriorating situation in our neighborhood has made it all the more imperative that the countries of this region have very cordial relations. Accordingly, in addition to its endeavors to further strengthen friendly relations with India, Pakistan is making sincere efforts for promoting regional cooperation among countries of south Asia. He expressed his happiness that useful progress has been made in this connection.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, the president wished and prayed that the two countries will renounce conflict and war and adopt the path of negotiations for settling bilateral disputes.

About the Middle East, he said that only through the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people can a durable peace can be established there.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and President Ceausescu are holding formal talks today. The Radio Pakistan representative understands that the two leaders will exchange views, among other things, on ways and means to further strengthen bilateral relations, as well as on the regional and international situation.

Zia, Ceausescu Hold Talks

BK081236 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] President Ceausescu of Romania and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq held wide-ranging talks spread over 3 hours in Rawalpindi today. Their talks, which were held in a most cordial and friendly atmosphere, mainly covered ways and means of strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields. Major international and regional problems also figured at the talks.

The president's team at the talks included the finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the industries minister, Mr Elahi Bux Soomro, the minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, and the minister for information and broadcasting, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq.

The Romanian president was assisted, among others, by his wife and the first deputy prime minister, Madam Elena Ceausescu, another first deputy prime minister, Mr Gheorghe Oprea, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Ion M. Nicolae, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Stefan Andrei.

Earlier, the Romanian president planted a chir [pine tree] sapling at the (Chakrparian) hills in Islamabad.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Visits Islamabad

BK081229 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey are to intensify efforts for increasing the level of economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries. This was stated by the Turkish deputy prime minister, who is also minister for economic affairs, Mr Kaya Erdem, while talking to newsmen on arrival at the Islamabad airport today. He will lead his country's delegation to the fifth session of the Pakistan-Turkish joint ministerial commission beginning in Islamabad tomorrow.

Mr Kaya Erdem said they wanted to enlarge bilateral cooperation in the economic field and hoped that concrete results will emerge from the commission's deliberations. Replying to a question, he said Pakistan and Turkey would promote cooperation in the industrial sector, and the establishment of joint ventures was an important aspect of this cooperation.

Zia's Election Plans, Politicians' Pessimism Eyed

GF282000 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 24 Apr 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Need To Use Perception and Wisdom"]

[Excerpts] President Ziaul Haq expressed his views the day before yesterday in a meeting with the editors of the national publications of the country. There has been no favorable reaction to his views until this goes into print. There is no doubt that President Ziaul Haq wished to hold elections according to the 12 August 1983 announcement, since he has been the president for the past 7 years without an election. He now says openly that it is not a matter of pride that a country which came into existence on the basis of public opinion has a president who is also the chief martial law administrator or an Army man.

In view of the situation, it is the duty of the politicians to adopt a practical point of view and refrain from issuing irresponsible statements which inspire pessimism or doubt among the people. For example, the National Democratic Party [NDP] leader says that if martial law is imposed for the fourth time it makes no difference to us. Khwaja Khairuddin denied that the MRD was initiated at U.S. encouragement, but he confessed that U.S. and pro-U.S. diplomats have asked us whether the public is on our side when we talk of democracy.

In our dear country there are only a dozen politicians who are mentioned from time to time as political leaders who have the confidence of their followers. In any case if they believe that they are the nation's leaders then they should meet President Ziaul Haq at the first instance, individually or collectively, and they should convince him of their stances or agree to the president's viewpoint so that we may see the process of delegation of power beginning. Otherwise, martial law will have to be imposed for the fourth time, which the politicians and the president should be apprehensive of, as the performance of both sides will be laid before the nation, which will bear the brunt of the same and not send blessings on the president or the politicians. We should all act sensibly and use wisdom instead of emotions and then act, as time is rapidly passing by.

Country Begins Work on Communications Satellite

GF081300 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 21 Apr 84 p 4

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Karachi, 20 April (APP) — The work on designing a Pakistani telecommunications satellite has begun, and the Suparco [Space and Upper Atmospheric Research Commission] scientists and technical experts will complete the work by November this year.

According to officia' sources, Suparco is preparing the design in collaboration with a foreign space research firm, and Pakistani experts are participating in every aspect of this project. When the detailed survey is completed in November, then Suparco will examine every aspect and possibility of steps to be taken before signing an agreement with a foreign firm for the production of a satellite and for which work will begin next year. It will be launched by the end of the current decade. With this satellite, two-way telex and telephone circuits will become available and it will be used for radio transmission and computer links. In addition, two television channels will also be set up.

Under the plan, two satellites will be produced but only one will be used. The other one will be stored for an emergency. The whole project is estimated to cost $35 million. Under the plan, training stations will be set up to send and receive messages which will include training control stations, 5 trunk stations and 100 smaller receiving stations, some of which will be mobile. The scientists and technical experts of Suparco will receive the necessary training, and organizations that will benefit from it, such as the Telegraph and Telephones Department, the Education Ministry, and the radio television organizations, will be included in the project.

Government Supports Libya's 'Anti-Imperialist' Stand

LD091141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Following yesterday's events in Libya, which culminated in the killing of several terrorists affiliated with foreign agents in that country, who had been dispatched to Libya by reactionary neighboring countries and Britain, and who had seized a building and taken its occupants as hostages, our country's Foreign Ministry announced: The volume of plots and conspiracies hatched by imperialism against Libya has increased recently, and by resorting to such means as intensification of psychological and propaganda warfare and declarations of open support for counterrevolutionary forces outside Libya, imperialism is trying to weaken that country's anti-imperialist stance in an attempt to force it to surrender.

The Foreign Ministry also announced: At present, the resistance of Libya and other progressive forces in North Africa has defeated the provocations and conspiracies of the United States and its allies, such as the regimes of Egypt and Sudan, in this sensitive region of the world. Therefore, it is natural to witness that the United States and other colonialist forces of the West have intensified their psychological warfare against Libya through stage management and conspiracy. By so doing, they intend to prepare the necessary grounds for intervention and creation of tension by provoking the counterrevolutionary and affiliated groups. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning these conspiracies, which have no other aim but to inflict a blow on the progressive forces, and to weaken one of the active and sensitive countries of the Steadfastness Front and the progressive Arab countries, expresses its unstinting support for the revolutionary and progressive stances adopted by the government and the nation of Libya in exposing imperialism and the struggle against it.

Superpowers Find Presence in Gulf 'Unpleasant'

LD090735 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 9 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf had created a dreadful nightmare for oil cartels and imperialist Western and Eastern states, the conclusion of which was unpredictable for Westerners.

Although, he stressed, international imperialism could perhaps meet the challenge with sophisticated weapons, however, where it stands to lose is in the arena of confrontation with Iran's devoted forces.

Rafsanjani, addressing a group of units of naval division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], further said that Iran's sea borders needed combatants such as the IRGC.

Every single Iranian island in the Persian Gulf enjoyed a special value both from military and economic point of view, the Majlis speaker said, and noted that one of the most sensitive parts of the country was southern banks of Sistan and Baluchistan Province on which the superpowers had an eye.

The old dream of reaching warm waters through south of Iran for one superpower, and the nightmare of rivalry for the other, further indicated the sensitivity of the area, Rafsanjani said.

The Majlis speaker stressed that previously the Americans were counting highly on their base in Chahbahar, Oman Sea, and the Soviets were concerned about the former's situation, emphasising that at present the Islamic Republic's presence was unpleasant for both superpowers.

Referring to the role Japanese forces played in the World War II, Rafsanjani added that Japanese pilots would lead their small aircraft towards giant U.S. warships and would deviate them from their direction, thus inflicting heavy damages.

It was he weakness of the U.S. vis-a-vis Japanese forces that made it resort to the use of atomic bomb, the Majlis speaker remarked, noting that the likelihood of the same situation existed in the Indian Ocean.

He further urged the naval division of the IRGC to mobilise forces to control waterways and block the way to smugglers, emphasising that formation of the division was a necessity.

Rafsanjani, who is Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council, said that Iran had a vast water border in the Persian Gulf and sought to be friendly with the regional countries provided that such states intended to understand their situation and realise the sensitiveness of the region.

Tudeh Party's Tabari Assails Soviet System

LD081946 Tehran IRNA in English 1927 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — The ideologue of the pro-Soviet and outlawed Tudeh Party, Ehsan Tabari, in the second part of his televised interview here tonight talked about the deterioration of moral values in the Soviet Union and corruption and bribery in government organisations.

In the first part of the interview Tabari, who was a member of the party for some 42 years, said that although the party pretended to be supporting the Islamic Revolution of Iran, covertly [it] was undermining the foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was engaged in espionage activities and treason. He also asked for pardon from Imam Khomeyni and the Muslim people of Iran.

Continuing his criticism of the Marxist ideology he said that he has compiled his critique of the ideology which will be published in a near future.

Tabari, who was arrested more than a year ago, said that the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran proved that supervision of religion in the society immensly promoted moral rectitude because only religion presupposes the existence of a supreme being who is the ever-vigilant observer of people's deeds, and it is to this being also that man has to give an account of his conduct on earth. On the basis of such belief in the Iranian society a unique moral restraint has prevailed.

Tabari added that in the recent years there has been two major changes in the region, completely different from one another, one the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the other [the] Marxist coup in Afghanistan. However, a comparison between these two cases shows the difference between Islam and Marxism.

In the Islamic Revolution of Iran [the] regime of the former shah and his imperialist supporters were the target of severe public criticism. The Muslim revolutionary forces made up the bulk of the opposition, who were the subject of persecution, arrest and torture by the notorious Savak.

Alongside these forces, there were various groups of liberals and communists, including the Tudeh Party which was operating outside the country.

Once the revolution reached its culmination, it became clear that the Muslim militants led by Imam Khomeyni had won the hearts and minds of the masses. It was under the leadership of the imam that the people of Iran bare-handed put up a fierce fight against the regime of the toppled shah which was armed to [the] teeth. Consequently the shah fled the country, the imam returned and the revolution materialised and people formed the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The Islamic Revolution of Iran was completely a popular revolution with an unprecedented and far-reaching impact, which became victorious under the banner of Islam, leadership of the imam and martyrdom and self-sacrificing of the people," Tabari pointed out.

However, in the case of Afghanistan people played no role in the so-called "revolution"; it was not a revolution but a military coup of Communist Party.

Soon afterwards, the two wings of the Communist Party, Parcham (flag) and Khalq (people), which both depended on foreign power but were rivals of one another, embarked on a serious antagonism, he added.

Consequently the Parcham was pushed out of the scene and the coup reached its second phase. It was then the Parcham wing which removed with [the] cooperation of the Soviets the Khalq wing from the leadership.

The case in Afghanistan is one in which a minority, that is the ruling clique, with no influence ever since the coup, has been under immense pressure from the Muslim mujahidin of Afghanistan who have continued their struggle against the government and Soviet occupying forces.

The reason for this matter, he stressed, is that the Marxist ideology, which has imposed the design of a weak group upon the society, has [been] faced with public opposition in the society. Therefore, tension in Afghanistan will not easily be overcome.

Comparison between the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Marxist oriented coup in Afghanistan proves [the] falsity of the Marxist ideology which takes coercion as its rule and negates spirituality, he said.

Further on the Islamic Revolution of Iran he said that the far-ranging impact of the revolution is unprecedented in history. People responded to calls of Imam Khomeyni and the revolutionary institutions were formed. There is no parallel to the degree of devotion and sacrifice of the people both in the course of the revolution and the Iraqi-imposed war.

He further stressed that religious, political and social principles of the revolution such as the Velyat-e Faqih (office of the religious jurisprudence), the Majlis, support for the dispossessed of the world and the principle of neither East nor West all enjoy full public backing. The key behind invulnerability and power of the Islamic Revolution is the unity between the people and the imam, the leadership and the public, he added.

Further on the principle of neither East nor West, he said that it is nucleus of the foreign policy, which negates influence of superpower of West (the U.S.) and superpower of East (the Soviet Union).

In addition to campaigning against these powers, he said, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been fighting against U.S. imperialism and Soviet influence in the region.

The principle of neither East nor West is the foundation of the independence of the country which has opened up a new chapter in the world history. This attitude has frightened East and West, who fear that it may set a pattern for other oppressed nations, said Tabari.

He further added that in general the people of Iran are displeased with policy of the Soviet [Union], because time and time over the Soviet diplomacy has proved to be against their wishes.

On the reign of Reza Khan, Tabari said that he (Reza Khan) was an agent of British imperialism. However he managed to pave the way for throne with the help of the Soviets and their Iranian agents and imposed the treacherous Pahlavi rule on Iran for some 57 years.

His son, Mohammad Reza, also enjoyed Soviet assistance. The former shah and his sister and wife were invited to the Soviet Union several times. This was the Soviet policy towards Iran at a time when a large number of the opposition were being ruthlessly tortured and eliminated by the Savak.

After the revolution the Soviet policy shifted to arming the criminal Iraqi regime. Enjoying such a support, the Iraqi regime has been destroying the Iranian cities and by deploying the Soviet-made weapons, Saddam has been massacring civilians in Iran.

Further on the Soviet attitude towards the Iraqi-imposed war, Tabari said that at the outbreak of the war it adopted a policy of neutrality towards the Iraqi aggressor and the defender. This in fact means supporting the aggressor, he stressed.

Later on the Soviet [Union] began overtly supporting [the] Iraqi regime. The 15-year accord between Iraq and the Soviet has apparently limited the Iraqi usage of weapons delivered by the Soviet [Union]. However, this is merely a nominal agreement. It

is interesting that this is observed in case of Syria in defending the Biqa' valley against the Zionist regime and at the same time no warning is given to Iraq for deploying these weapons in its war against Iran.

On the activities of the outlawed Tudeh Party he said that the Soviet Union was responsible. For engaging in espionage activities against an Islamic government and people is an open crime. At the same time wide-scale espionage activities within the party is another offense which could not be overlooked. That is why the Iranian people strongly abhorred Soviet diplomacy and this is why the slogan of "Death to the Soviet [Union]" comes along with that of the "Death to America".

He further told viewers that as a result of the developments within the Tudeh Party, he also changed and entered the path of Islam.

Addressing his remarks to the youths with leftist inclinations, the ideologue of the Tudeh Party said that they should just look and see where the Tudeh Party has been led after forty years. It could be summed up as espionage activities, formation of secret organizations, plots to overthrow the Islamic Republic and finally, defeat and destruction.

"This is the fate of [a] party which chooses isolation, plotting and hypocrisy", he said. All parities which shut themselves from the society and separate their path from that of the people will inevitably have such a destiny. On the basis of the historical experiences Marxism has had no place and its progress either philosophically or socially will not lead to any result.

Further on Marxist ideology, he said that the first thing it preaches is negation of religion, and this is how it puts an end to itself. By doing so it completely detaches itself from the committed Muslim people of the country, he said.

He also urged these youths to turn to the Islamic culture and teachings. "The vast Islamic culture provides a great deal for studying, learning, discussion and challenge," he said.

Propagation of Eastern and Western culture during the past 50 years has divorced reality from our spiritual life and consequently we have become alienated from our own culture and have lost a great deal.

In [the] conclusion of his interview Tabari said "I have enthusiastically treaded on the path of Marxism from my youth till old age and gained nothing from it. I was surrounded either by treason or deviation; neither the treacherous attained any goal nor the deviant." In fact, both in theory and practice, Marxism is full of flaws, which are exemplified by the history of Communist Party of Iran and the Tudeh Party.

He said he was speaking in [the] capacity of a person who was well informed of Marxism and has been with the Tudeh Party for some 40 years and has escaped from many traps and has suffered a great deal. "Mistake after mistake of the party is unforgivable. Embarking on path of Marxism is a grave mistake." "As a person who has behind him all problems of the Tudeh Party, I have to warn the youth," he siad.

"Generally, it is the inescapable doom of all groups and parties which lack devine ideology and have no basis in the society to ultimately depend on foreign powers, treason and finally plunge in destruction." Best examples of these groups are the Munafiqeen (MKO), the Liberals, and other such grouplets.

A review of my past record and the path that I had chosen creates sorrow and regret, he told the viewers. He added that he has wasted all his life and he could not expect much in his old age. "I (?must) humbly turn to the imam and (?humbly) ask him for forgiveness of my past deeds so that I may ask him for guidance in future."

USSR Mum on Confession

LD081521 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 8 IRNA — Since [the] televised interview of the ideologue of the pro-Soviet and outlawed Tudeh Party, Ehsan Tabari, Sunday night, radios of Moscow and Baku have not uttered a single world of comment on the disclosures of Tabari.

Tabari, a member of the treacherous Tudeh party for over 40 years, in his interview shouldered responsibility for espionage and sabotage activities of the party against the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked for pardon from Imam Khomeyni and the people. He also said that all his publications on Marxist ideology and Islam were flawed and should be discarded.

Following disclosure of plots of the Tudeh Party and arrest of its leading members involved in spying over a year ago, the Soviet press and radio stations, after several days of silence, launched a campaign in their support. In these reports, the Soviet press referred to revelations and confessions of the party members as being fabricated.

In this respect, Radio Moscow alone aired 133 programmes in support of these spy agents.

It is interesting that the VOA recently has been broadcasting programmes about Tudeh Party which itself show the coordination between the superpowers of East and West in their campaign against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, Radio Moscow in its this afternoon programme without making a reference to the recent confessions of Tabari in which he negated Marxist ideology, emphasised superiority of Marxist ideology.

President Khamene'i Continues Tour of Mazandaran

Visit to Governate General

GF080804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 84

[Correspondent report on the visit by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Mazandaran Province — recorded]

[Text] The president, Mr Khamene'i, in the course of his tour of Mazandaran Province met the Friday imams and clergymen of

the province at the Governorate General last night. The ministers of energy, agriculture, and reconstruction crusade, as well as the commanders of the Air Force and Navy, the governor general of Mazandaran, local officials, and the presidential adviser were present during the meeting. The imam's representative in Mazandaran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ruhani, offered a report on the issues of the province and the sacrifices made by the faithful people of Mazandaran in protecting the achievements of the Islamic Revolution. In his meeting with the Friday imams and clergymen of Mazandaran, Mr Khamene'i noted the role of the ulema and clergy in the creation and continuation of the Islamic revolution, and said: The ulema were fundamentally responsible for the creation, depth and expansion of this revolution. The clergy is proudly in the forefront of this national revolution.

Stressing that the slogans of the revolution must be maintained by the clergy, Mr Khamene'i emphasized the need for the ulema to attract and direct the youth. In another part of his speech, Mr President talked about the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and stressed that as the honor of the Islamic Republic system is expanding, deepening, and gaining strength in the world, it is necessary for the ulema to further strengthen the fundamental bases of this revolution at home. At the end, Mr Khamene'i offered advice to the clerical society, saying: One of our most important duties is to maintain the unity of action irrespective of differences of opinion.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, during last night's meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Mo'alemi, (?Juibar) Friday imam, was received by Mr Khamene'i, to whom he handed over a check for 500,000 rials and 14 pieces of gold which were donations from the faithful and martyr-nurturing people of the area toward the fronts of war of right against wrong. Mr Khamene'i thanked the donors and expressed his hope that they will be able to continue their service to Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

A number of representatives of central Alborz coal company and the company's Islamic society were also received by Khamene'i last night at the Governorate General. They handed over a check for 5,000,000 rials as the donation of the employees of the company toward the war fund. Mr Khamene'i thanked the faithful and toiling workers of the company and asked the representatives to pass his sincere and brotherly greetings to the faithful employees of that company.

Speech to Judicial Officials

GF090647 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 May 84

[Correspondent telephone report from Sari — recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr Khamene'i, the president, in continuation of his tour of Mazandaran Province received judges, shar' magistrates, and Islamic Revolution prosecutors of the province at the Governorate General last night. During the meeting Mr Majdara, governor general of Mazandaran, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabasi, Sari Friday imam, were present. Hojjat ol-Eslam Elahi, the head of Mazandaran justice department, offered a report on the operations of the provincial justice department.

During the meeting, the president noted that the judiciary is the instrument for establishing justice and while explaining the importance of justice in Islam, said: Islamic justice belongs to the people, has been selected by the people, and has its own special attributes. He added: One of the most important facets of the judiciary is that it must be justice-seeking. If the Islamic judiciary system wants to work this way, then it gives the judge some responsibilities. In Islam the opinion of the judge is final. Mr Khamene'i also stressed that Islam has attached the conditions that judges must maintained their purity.

Mr Khamene'i, addressing the audience, stressed that they must be very careful not to cause people to become disenchanted with the judiciary.

Address in Sari

LD081116 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tehran, MAY 8, IRNA — President Khamene'i told a gathering of people in Sari that the war should soon end victoriously, and that therefore construction programmes should be started with the cooperation of popular forces. He said that the victory in the war would strengthen pillars of the revolution, however, noting that the superpowers would not leave Iran alone and allow it to rebuild its country, noting, too, that the possibility existed that they might impose another war on the country.

The president said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was a popular government, and 'fortunately all over the country... in cities and villages, people enthusiastically were serving Islam'.

President Khamene'i thanked the people of Mazandaran for their help given to the war fronts, adding that strategists of the world oppressors were not able to evaluate and understand the Islamic Republic system, because, he noted, they failed to recognise its popularity.

He added that since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution people had sincerely participated in their country's affairs, especially the war fronts, renovation of war-stricken areas, and various elections.

The relationship that exists between the people and the ruling system in the Islamic Republic could not be seen elsewhere in the world.

The president said that even though there were obstacles placed in the path to prevent the achieving of goals of the Islamic Republic during the post-revolution era, and many such attempts were made to harm the revolution, however, he noted, a great amount of development have been carried out because of the sincere aid rendered by the people. He said the world oppressors had spared no effort to harm the Islamic Republic, including economic sanctions, spreading of misinformation, aiding, instigation of its enemies as well as backing the Iraqi invasion of Iran, but, thanks be to God and the help of the nation all such plots have been thwarted, he noted.

Referring to the agriculture week, President Khamene'i said that the province was ideally suited for agricultural exploitation and

that the government is rendering all necessary assistance for its exploitation. The goverment's agricultural plans should be implemented by farmers in lands suitable for cultivation, he said, adding that a self-sufficient Iran in all fields, including agriculture, could sever hands of superpowers from this country.

President Khamene'i arrived in Sari Monday and inspected Nekka power station.

Speech in Bandar-e Torkaman

LD081418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpts] Our correspondent sends this telephone dispatch from Bandar-e Torkaman on the continuation of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's trip to Mazandaran Province:

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Muslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of our country, who is visiting Mazandaran Province accompanied by the ministers of energy, reconstruction crusade, agriculture, the commanders of the Navy and the Air Force, and the minister without portfolio, arrived in Bandar-e Torkaman this morning.

In a speech, he thanked the enthusiasm of the people and said: Our meetings will serve to strengthen the unity and increase the understanding among the people.

One of the duties of the clergymen in Torkaman Sahra is to draw the attention of the people to the duty of guarding the borders. The president added: In this connection, you should support the Guards Corps and mobilization forces and teach them that defending the borders of the Islamic Republic is a religious obligation. He also said: The regime of the Islamic Republic belongs to the people. It is the people who choose the officials of the Islamic Republic and even the leader.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i finally added: Today the whole nation is prepared to defend the Islamic Revolution and, thank God, differences of nationality, taste, accent, language, and religion have not caused our nation to lose it unity. For instance, the nation took part in the elections with enthusiasm. I would like to thank all the people of this region for their participation in the elections.

Khamane'i on 'Enemies of Islam'

LD082126 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i on his tour of the northern cities arrived today at Port Turkaman [Bandar-e Torkaman], Mazandaran Province. Commenting the role of the Sunni Muslims of Iran in thwarting all the intrigues of the Eastern and Western enemies, the president said that these enemies were attempting to create obstacles in the way of the revolution. By circulating unfounded rumours, he added, they tried to sow discord between the Shi'ite and the Sunni Muslims of Iran, but with the grace of the Almighty and the alertness of the people in this region all their plots were neutralised.

President 'Ali Khamene'i also noted that the enemies of Islam and the Islamic Revolution spared no effort in their conspiracy against the Islamic Republic. Thousands of books and articles are published and doubts were inculcated in the minds of the people. The president said, it was the duty of the conscious ulema to counter this type of cultural aggression and instill in the peoples faith and spirituality.

The Islamic Republic Government originates from the people, and the people enjoy the right to elect the president and the Majlis deputies and even their leader. In another part of his speech, the president said that Iraq today was being fully supported by the Soviet as well as the U.S. weapons, but the people of the Islamic nation of Iran continue their firm resistance. This presence of the people in the scene of action in every field has thwarted all the plots of the enemies of the Islamic Republic, the president said.

Security Issues Behind Visit

GF080616 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] After some unrest and agitation in the northern provinces of the country and guards escaping their centers, 'Ali Khamene'i hastily went to Now Shahr and Sari in order to discuss ways with the law enforcement officials of the regime, especially committee guards, to oppose the people and the strugglers. The radio of Khomeyni's regime reported the reason for the sudden trip north by 'Ali Khamene'i as "a review of economic and industrial situation of the region and a review of the problems there." A number of Guards Corps commanders, including the commander of the air and naval units of the regime, accompanied Mullah Khamene'i.

The struggling armed freedom fighters who are stationed in northern forests have dealt numerous blows against the armed mercenaries of the regime with their attacks. The people of northern Iran have sent valuable aid to their children in the forests of Gilan and Mazandaran, and contrary to the claims of Khomeyni's regime, the armed groups continue their activities from the forests against the criminal regime of Khomeyni.

Dashti Interviewed on International Prayers Congress

GF081236 Tehran International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 6 May 84

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dashti, chairman of the current session of the international congress of Friday prayers leaders held in Tehran, by unidentified radio correspondent in Tehran — read by announcer; date not given]

[Excerpts] Correspondent: What is the objective of the current congress of the Friday and congregational prayers leaders?

Dashti: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every Muslim strives to create contacts and coordination cooperation with other Muslims for the purpose of achieving common goals. Briefly speaking, the aim of this congress is to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding, aptitude and solidarity

among all Muslims. As he is instructed by the Holy Koran, every Muslim is supposed to use all his strength to institute social justice and the rich power of (?religion) on the earth.

Correspondent: What questions will be discussed at the seminars of this congress?

Dashti: As it was noted previously, the objective of convening this congress is the creation of a course for achieving unity among Muslims. A number of questions will be discussed by the current congress. The first of these is unity. This means that through unity we can eliminate the differences among Muslims, which favors our common goals.

Correspondent: What achievements, in your opinion, can be made by this congress in the Islamic world?

Dashti: This congress, in our opinion, is convened with the aim of creating a favorable mutual understanding among Muslims and foiling the plots designed by the enemies of Islam and which are aimed at causing division in the ranks of the Muslim masses. We hope that the Islamic world will realize these drafts and that mutual understanding will, at last, be reached among the Muslim peoples.

Correspondent: What programs are set up for the foreign guests at the congress?

Dashti: The guests will remain in Iran for 10 days, of which 6 days will be dedicated to the discussion of speeches and reports at the congress. On other days, the guests are scheduled to pay visits to the battlefronts and Majlis and to acquaint themselves with sites of interest in the cities. They will visit the families of the hero martyrs. We are glad that they will directly acquaint themselves with the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and that they will meet and speak with our people. Of course, our guests want to know about the history of the foundation of the Islamic Republic and its leading [word indistinct]. Therefore, we call on the responsible figures of the Majlis to meet their request and to brief the guests on the system of administration in our country.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,720

LD081734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 84

[Communique No 1,720 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours the victorious troops of our Ground Forces on the operational fronts in the country's northwest continued to use heavy artillery and mortar fire in reply to the fire opened by the mercenary Iraqi Ba'thist forces. Our forces had superiority of firepower over the Saddamist forces, silenced their fire, and inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces on every front. While controlling the enemy's movements, engineering and trench-digging, our forces destroyed enemy tanks and four group bunkers and observation posts of the Saddamists in the Piranshahr region, and killed or wounded 14 of their servicemen.

In the Sardasht region, Islam's forces set on fire an ammunition dump belonging to the Iraqi forces, and killed more than 15 Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

On the country's western and southern fronts, sporadic exchanges of light and heavy weapons fire continued between our victorious forces and the declining enemy. Islam's victorious forces were busy strengthening and defending their defensive positions and by opening fire on enemy patrol units and elements and positions inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi mercenaries.

On the southern fronts, several vehicles and trenches belonging to the Iraqi forces were totally destroyed and a number of Iraqi troops were killed.

On the southern end of Majnun Island, an Iraqi infantry unit was spotted by Islam's vigilant combatants and fired on. The Iraqi forces disappeared after suffering losses and casualties.

During an exchange of fire on the Arvand Rud front, our Gendarmerie combatants returned fire on the enemy's positions, fortifications and supply axes, halted their movements and relocations, and destroyed a heavy mortar launcher belonging to the Iraqi forces and more than seven of their light and heavy weapons.

Yesterday the city of Abadan also came under artillery fire from the Iraqi forces and several houses and shops were damaged.

Election Results in Esfahan, Kuhdasht Declared Void

LD082324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The Council of Guardians held a meeting today during which investigations continued into complaints about the files of the electoral constituencies pertaining to the second term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The elections in Esfahan and Kuhdasht constituencies were declared null and void.

Ja'fari Signs Commerce Agreement With India

LD082112 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — India's exports to Iran will reach 225 million dollars this year, according to the letter of understanding signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India at the end of the one-week visit of the Iranian minister of commerce, Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, to that country. The figure is three times as much as India's exports to Iran prior to the victory of the Feb 79 Islamic Revolution, said Abedi-Ja'fari, who returned from India Monday.

The minister of commerce expressed his satisfaction with talks with Indian officials. The accord envisages cooperation in the fields of heavy, light and rural industries, railways, steel mill, transfer of technology and commercial services. On the basis of the letter of understanding, he added, the Indian Government has agreed with opening of commercial representative office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India.

The Iranian delegation during its visit and talks with the speaker of the Indian Parliament explained plots of superpowers against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian delegation also requested the Indian Government to take a stance towards crimes of the Iraqi regime against the people of Iran including deployment of chemical warfare as well as missile and air attacks on Iranian civilian areas.

Syrian Commerce Minister Meets With Ja'fari

LD082236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Mr Salim Yasin, the Syrian minister of economy and commerce who is visiting Tehran, this afternoon met with Mr Ja'fari, our country's commerce minister. In this meeting, while following up earlier agreements reached about the exchange of goods between the two countries, and emphasizing the brotherly relations between the two countries and the valuable role of Iran and Syria in the region, the two sides discussed ways of further expanding commercial exchanges.

Turkish Legislator Replies to Majlis Speaker

GF090622 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] In response to Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to the speakers of parliaments in the world asking that they criticize the usage of chemical arms by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic forces of Iran, Necmeddin Karaduman, president of the Turkish National Assembly, has said that Turkey is deeply concerned over the use of chemical arms, which have been banned by international agreements.

Necmeddin Karaduman also recalled that at the time of his visit to Iran, the Turkish foreign affairs minister, in his talks with Iranian authorities, said that Turkey condemns the use of chemical arms and opposes the use of such weapons anywhere in the world, irrespective of the conditions under which they are used and regardless of who uses them.

Briefs

Trade Talks With Pakistan — Tehran, April 29 — Pakistan's ambassador, Mr Khattak, held a meeting with Iran's commerce minister yesterday. Their meeting centered round mutual relations, opening of common markets in Islamic countries and exchange of trade delegations. The Pakistani envoy also requested the Iranian minister to participate in the trade exhibitions being held in Pakistan. [Text] [Karachi *DAWN* English 30 Apr 84 p 1 of the Economic and Business Review supplement GF]